Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-51. (canceled)

52. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated polypeptide ~~of Claim 49~~ having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2; lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(c)~~ the amino acid sequence ~~of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide~~ from amino acid position 1 to amino acid position X of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein X is any amino acid from position 271 to position 280 ; or

~~(d)~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209620;

wherein said polypeptide molecule stimulates the proliferation of T lymphocytes.

53. (canceled)

54. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2; lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(c)~~ the amino acid sequence o~~f the extracellular domain of the polypeptide~~ from amino acid position 1 to amino acid position X of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein X is any amino acid from position 271 to position 280; or

~~(d)~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209620.

55. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 54 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

56. (canceled)

57. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 54 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209620.

58. (previously presented) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 54 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

59. (previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 58, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.